

From: Ryan Vanderzanden
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/9/01 6:37pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement.

To whom it may concern,

I, as an end user of computers and computer software, feel that the proposed settlement is utterly appalling. This is far worse than a simple slap on the wrist to a company that knows darned well that they abused their monopoly powers, but it helps them to further extend their power.

As an end user of various types of computers and computer software, I rely on multiple platforms talking to each other. One large hole in the wording of the settlement is that it would allow Microsoft to effectively stop such interactivities. That is truly terrible, because it puts Microsoft in a heightened state of control.

It seems to me, as a consumer, that this 'punishment' is actually nothing of the sort, and most of the settlement is designed to work out in Microsoft's favor. Worse yet, is that during the entirety of the court proceedings, Microsoft continued to do the very thing they were at court for, abusing monopoly power by bundling Windows Media Player and Windows Messenger into Windows XP, and tightening the grip on what hardware vendors could and couldn't do with the desktop. A settlement such as this only enforces the behaviors that Microsoft has grown so accustomed to.

Please, lay down a stricter punishment, something that actually hurts them, not helps them. They were found guilty, they have done nothing whatsoever to show any remorse (and in fact have done more things that prove that they don't care what anybody says, and that they have the power). They are not untouchable as long as we do something about it now. No software company in the world has a chance to beat them on anything they do, and they will continue to grow and abuse their powers unless they see that there are repercussions to monopolistic abuses. Force them to open their source code, force them to stop bundling software such as Internet Explorer, Windows Media Player, and Windows Messenger with Windows, and whatever happens, keep them from running the world with their .net and passport strategy where the internet will be relegated to an 'in' club (those who play by Microsoft's rules) and an 'out' club (those who refuse to follow suit, and end up not being able to shop online at amazon.com, or whatever sites have exclusive agreements with Microsoft).

Personally, I feel that they should be split up, but I see that will never happen. However, demanding they give a couple billion dollars to

AOL/Netscape, as well as Apple, Real Networks, etc, will make the point that if they continue to abuse power, they will have to pay.

Thank you for your time.

Ryan Vanderzanden